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GUERRILLA GRADS USE LETHAL SKILLS IN WORLD HOT SPOTS

Exclusive by
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FRANK Camper Jr. doesn't like the description — but it would be fair to call him a professor of terror.

In the last five years, he has sent 200 super-tough "graduates" out into a world where they have wreaked havoc in four continents with skills equal to the Green Berets.

Camper is a self-styled mercenary, and he insists that the expertise he instills on 30 acres of Alabama swamplands

are meant only to beevused in war situations against military targets, not against civilians.

But federal authorities believe that he has trained at least one Sikh now suspected of being a conspirator in one the worst acts of terrorism against civilians in our time — the bombing of Air India Flight 182, with the loss of 329 lives, including 70 children.

That graduate is one of at least two Sikh "honor students" who are also fugitives from charges of participating in a plot to kill Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Camper boasts that his students can infiltrate even the tightest security and pull off anything from blowing up a nuclear plant to poisoning water supplies.

They can take hostages, or rescue them.

Camper Jr. 38, a former Vietnam commando and self-described CIA-FBI operative, is mad as hell at the suggestion that his proteges might turn

their arsenal of homicidal skills against civilians.

"I teach warfare in every imaginable way, but if I ever catch any of my former students in acts of terrorism, I will shoot them without a word," he told The Post in an exhaustive series of taped interviews this week.

Still, in the double-think vision unique to the world of mercenaries, he admits his guerrilla graduates who have earned a black lightning-bolt patch on the challenging campus of Recondo School, at Hueyville 30 miles from Birmingham, could be "extremely well equipped for terrorism."

"But to my knowledge, none of them are involved in terror acts against civilians," other than the two Sikhs, Lal Singh, the fugitive, and Sukwinder Singh, held in New Orleans on the Gandhi assassination charges.

They have, however, been present at the massacre of Palestine refugees in Lebanon's Sabra camp; they have struck at black dissidents in South Africa; they have been in the ranks of the Contras battling the Marxist regime in Nicaragua, and they have killed anti-Marcos guerillas in the Phillipines.

His training camp is a bunker with cannons, rocket launchers, and weapons and explosives of every known type.

The campus is a 24-hour battlefield.

Students dodge live bullets and bombs — at times losing an eye or taking a steel slug for not ducking fast enough.

They must fight fellow students for their booby-trapped food — or starve.

They torture each other savagely, just for practice.

They even hang each other to demonstrate a silent assassination technique, and each student must black out from the experience and be revived at the last moment.

"We train people in specialized operations, but there is a line where I have to stop," the stocky, bearded dean of destruction insisted in an exclusive interview with The Post.

"I cannot by law train a unit for a sabotage mission in another country, but I have been asked."

The law has not been unkind to Camper, for whatever reason.

His encampment has been raided by federal agents looking for arms violations, and have found known in a gun-loving state where almost anything goes in the hunting, self-protection and just plain gun-buffery.

None of which excludes learning guerilla arts applicable in places like Beirut, Managua, or Johannesburg.

They also know how to raid a building, knock down its door with an explosive charge, "and spray it with machine gun fire.

"We call it house clearing. We can enter in seconds and shoot everybody on their feet. A hint if you're ever taken hostage, is to stay on the floor."

Tools of the trade include simple mechanical devices made from metal rods and plumbing equipment that can snap a pipe in a dangerous chemical factory — emitting poisonous gases.

A proud teacher, Camper dwells on the skills and motivations of four Sikhs trained by him — including the two Singhs mentioned earlier.

They are "highly dedicated holy warriors who are extremely determined and well organized for their aims,

"They have learned how to handle explosives, bomb timers, weapons, evasion and sabotage."

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Camper is expected to be called as a witness at the trial of five Sikhs charged with the assassination plot on Prime Minister Gandhi in a trial set for next month in New Orleans, "Sikhs are getting training wherever they can get it," Camper explains.

"They don't have a central training area. They came here to train a cadre to go out and set up other training camps. They even sought out professional terrorists to help them train."

"Professional terrorists, world class terrorists, of the sort that can teach sophisticated bomb timers. They even wanted to contract to blow up a plane," Camper says blandly.

He would not name the professional terrorists the Sikhs sought.

"The Libyans would be more than willing to help them," he observes without much elaboration.

The Sikhs, typically, sought out Camper in Alabama for training through an advertisement in a paramilitary magazine.

Students come from all over the world, Camper says.

"We had some Czechoslovakian paratrooper and military people, and a Soviet sailor who defected and came here to prepare for a mission back into their own countries."

"They actually wanted to run a mission to rescue their families from the Iron Curtain. I don't know if they succeeded but I have not heard from them."